

Carin Ohnell
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Dear Members of the Housing Committee,

I respectfully write to express my opposition to HB6633 the "Fair Share Act."

Part of what makes Connecticut a great place to live is the diversity of the places to live within the state. HB6633 would remove a municipalities' ability to locally control their town or city. This push to allow developers to build essentially whatever they want does not create a state where people will select to live.

I grew up in Stamford and Greenwich and have lived in Greenwich three times as an adult. Most recently, I moved back to Greenwich from New York City during Covid. My decision to move back to Greenwich was based on what makes Greenwich a nice place to live. It is diverse, not too big and not too small, has easy access to NYC, and has variety in its architecture that includes many significant historical homes and sites.

HB6633 could force a town like Greenwich to have to build over 3,000 housing units. Greenwich is already at a point where our infrastructure is pushed to its limits. Traffic is heavy, even in wet years we have water restrictions due to a limited water supply, our sewer system is close to maxed out, and much of our town requires well water and septic fields. We have many areas that consistently flood in rain events and creating more impervious surfaces would increase flooding. Additionally, Greenwich would need to expand our emergency services to service thousands of new units.

Greenwich has more diversity of housing and people than most would give us credit for given the reputation of the town. I live walkable to downtown Greenwich and within a few blocks of me is housing for seniors, a housing project, and multi and single family homes.

Please allow Greenwich to determine its future. Please do NOT move HB6633 forward.

Sincerely,

Carin Ohnell